

ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

July 5, 2005

9:00 a.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Tuesday, July 5, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in the Emergency Operations Center Conference Room, Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and pursuant to Resolution No. 36762-070604 adopted by the Council on Tuesday, July 6, 2004.

PRESENT: Council Members Brenda L. McDaniel, Brian J. Wishneff, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

COMMITTEES-CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Mayor C. Nelson Harris requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Council Member Dowe moved that Council concur in the request to convene in Closed Meeting as above described. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

COMMITTEES-CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Council Member Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Chair, City Council's Personnel Committee, requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the annual performance of two Council-Appointed Officers, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Council Member Dowe moved that Council concur in the request to convene in Closed Meeting as above described. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

COUNCIL-CITY PROPERTY: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss disposition of publicly-owned property, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Council Member Dowe moved that Council concur in the request to convene in Closed Meeting as above described. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

ITEMS LISTED ON THE 2:00 P. M., COUNCIL DOCKET REQUIRING DISCUSSION/CLARIFICATION, AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE 2:00 P. M., AGENDA: NONE.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

COMMITTEES: Council Member McDaniel inquired if members of the Flood Plain Committee had been advised that Council would consider a resolution abolishing the Committee at its 2:00 p.m. session; whereupon, the City Clerk advised that no member had been notified by the City Clerk's Office. With the concurrence of the Council, the City Manager advised that staff would call each member of the Flood Plain Committee prior to the 2:00 p.m. Council meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS: The Mayor advised that the item was included on the agenda to provide an opportunity for the Members of Council to report on various committee assignments, liaison roles, or an update on various activities, including Virginia Municipal League Policy Committee assignments.

Council Member McDaniel commended newly elected officers of the Friends of the Library.

Council Member Cutler advised that the Mill Mountain Advisory Committee, working in conjunction with the Department of Parks and Recreation and Virginia Tech have compiled a report consolidating information that was acquired over the period of a decade on Mill Mountain Park that will be used in the Master Plan; and considerable progress has been made on the Master Plan which will identify portions of Mill Mountain that have been developed, and more development will take place in the future regarding the zoo, star, radio/television towers,

campgrounds, etc., and steep portions of the mountain and park that constitute Mill Mountain Park. He stated that pursuant to an ordinance that was adopted by Council approximately one month ago it is intended to combine City-owned lands around the Fishburn Parkway and the Blue Ridge Parkway, exclusive of those leased to the National Park Service on the Blue Ridge Parkway; and a draft of the Master Plan has been completed and submitted to the Mill Mountain Advisory Committee for review prior to submission to Council. He stated that the Master Plan would provide a launching pad for consideration of a conservation easement on that portion of Mill Mountain Park that does not lend itself to development and should be protected for watershed, aesthetics and recreation wildlife habitat purposes.

Council Member Cutler reported that the Roanoke Arts Commission is in the process of acquiring a painting by local artist Eric Fitzpatrick entitled, "The Water Seekers" for the main office of the Western Virginia Water Authority.

Council Member Cutler stated that he serves on the Environmental Quality Stream Committee of the Virginia Municipal League and on behalf of the Western Virginia Water Authority, he has requested that the Committee consider an amendment to the State Code that would allow regional water authorities to hold conservation easements, and a number of private properties exist on the watershed or water supply reservoirs which could be protected by conservation easements held by the Water Authority. He stated he also serves on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and the Foundation has accepted two easements on properties on the watershed of the Falling Creek and Beaver Dam reservoirs. He advised of efforts by the Mill Mountain Zoo Board of Directors to appoint a new Executive Director to fill the position vacated by Beth Poff.

The City Manager advised that Council Member Cutler was recently selected as Chair of the Western Virginia Water Authority, effective July 1, 2005.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick reported on the railwalk and the outstanding work of City staff to move the project forward. He advised that a flatcar donated by Norfolk Southern was recently installed with "trex" boards on top which would become the new stage for "First Fridays", inasmuch as the former venue on the City Market will not be available due to construction of the new Art Museum; acquisition of "trex" boards was a wise expenditure of funds because the boards will not have to be replaced as often and the stage will save staff time by eliminating the need to assemble/disassemble the portable stage; the National Railroad Historical Society has provided ideas for a plaque to be installed at the bottom of the bridge from The Hotel Roanoke; and consideration has been given to placing locomotives by class in the area near the shops to the east end to demonstrate the City of Roanoke's involvement with the railwalk. He added that approximately 21 pairs of locomotive drivers were found at Virginia Scrap Iron and Metal which are between 3 ½ to 4 feet tall, mounted with axles, that can accommodate installation of a 4' x 4' information board in the middle of the railwalk down to the east end shops. He stated that a representative of FreightCar America has offered to donate paint to replace the letters "Southern Car" with "Norfolk Southern" and the project should be substantially complete by early

October.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick called attention to continuing efforts to move administrative offices of the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority to Municipal North and a progress report will be provided within the next 90 days.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that he serves as Vice-Chair of the Transportation Policy Committee of the Virginia Municipal League, and Co-Chair of the Virginians for Better Transportation which is a state-wide private sector group, and in those capacities he will continue to seek coordination between the two bodies to focus on transportation issues facing the Commonwealth of Virginia.

With regard to the Virginia First Cities Coalition, Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick advised that both gubernatorial candidates offered certain onerous tax suggestions that could be harmful to cities and the suggestions will be closely monitored by First Cities. He also spoke to a request of the Mill Mountain Advisory Committee with regard to an incline, an inn and an observation tower for Mill Mountain.

The City Manager commented on the location of the flatcar, and advised that those persons using the flatcar have found it to be an attractive venue, but when scheduling events and activities they have encountered some difficulty with the owners of the surface parking lot(s) in terms of liability insurance, which makes the venue not as attractive as it could be due to a cost that would not otherwise be incurred when using City-owned property. She encouraged the Members of Council to act as advocates when communicating with owners of surrounding surface parking lot(s) to reiterate the value of making their property available or charging a minimum fee to the public for use of the facilities.

In his capacity as Chair of the Legislative Committee, the City Manager inquired of Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick if plans are underway for a presentation on imminent domain and certain tax issues at a future Council meeting; whereupon, he stated that it would be appropriate for the City's legislative liaison to brief the Council within the next 60 days at a 9:00 a.m. Council work session.

Council Member Lea reported on activities of the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee. He advised that last year, RVTV produced 51 original television shows; i.e.: Inside Roanoke, Roanoke County Today, Spotlight on City Schools, Accent, Excellence in Roanoke County Business Partners; 58 Roanoke Valley government meetings were broadcast; a 15-year franchise agreement was executed with Cox Communications; a capital equipment grant of over \$1 million was awarded to RVTV; and RVTV completed transition to a completely digital television station.

Council Member Wishneff called attention to an issue regarding the Regional Industrial Park in Pulaski. He asked that the City Manager provide pertinent details to which the City Manager responded that she was not privy to the information. She stated that an important announcement was made last week to designate the Dublin Airport as a foreign trade tax zone, the City of Roanoke and

other jurisdictions of the Roanoke Regional Partnership have financially supported the activity for the past several years in the hopes of receiving the designation which would provide access to Federal funds; and support of the designation should make the broader region more attractive to certain kinds of businesses as they engage in import/export activities.

Council Member Wishneff advised that at a recent meeting of the Harrison Museum, Members of the Board of Directors were encouraged to consider moving the Harrison Museum of African American Culture to Center in the Square.

Council Member Cutler noted that the Harrison Board of Directors was not overly enthusiastic about the prospect of moving to Center in the Square, a certain amount of reluctance has been expressed on the part of the Harrison Museum Board of Directors to accept the invitation of Center in the Square because the Museum would lose some of its independence and uniqueness, but all Board members in attendance acknowledged that the Harrison School is not the appropriate location for a public museum; Board Members indicated that the Dumas Center had extended an offer to house the Harrison Museum, but there is not sufficient space in the Dumas to display the present collection of museum pieces; Senator John Edwards, Council Member Lea and others spoke in favor of the Harrison Museum taking advantage of an offer to move into space to be vacated by the Art Museum of Western Virginia at Center in the Square; the Harrison Museum continues to be in a tenuous financial situation and the main purpose of the meeting was to encourage City, State and national levels to provide more financial support for the Museum, and it has been acknowledged that more support is needed from the local community. In closing, Dr. Cutler advised that Council Members Lea and Wishneff attended the meeting on behalf of City Council, in addition to local State Senators and Delegates, and minutes of the meeting would be available upon request.

As a Member of the Board of Directors of Center in the Square, Council Member Dowe advised that discussions have taken place regarding larger opportunities for the Harrison Museum that can be sustained would be preferable and after measures to gain momentum have been identified along with solicitation of more community support. The paradigms will be broken down in order to get on with the business of operating the Harrison Museum. Council Member Cutler responded that relocating the Harrison Museum to Center in the Square would contribute to breaking down the paradigm.

Council Member Dowe advised that some time ago, the City of Roanoke created a Youth Commission, which was modeled after the City of Hampton's Youth Commission, to enable young people to have a level of "buy in" to the decisions made on their behalf and to act as an incentive for more young people to return to the City of Roanoke following completion of college because they would have a vested interest in what they perceive to be decision making for the future. He stated that he requested the City of Roanoke's Youth Commission to consider drafting a comprehensive plan for youth, which may be presented within the next year.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick advised that he participated in the recent ribbon cutting for the Youth Center at Preston Park, the Center was designed with input by members of the City's Youth Commission, a good representation of young people from across the City's neighborhoods was in attendance, and establishment of a Youth Center is another positive step in the right direction for Roanoke's youth.

The City Manager advised that representatives of the Youth Commission would present a progress report at the August 1, 2005 Council work session, along with before and after photographs of the Preston Center; the Vice-Mayor attended the "soft opening" of the Preston Center and a formal ribbon cutting ceremony will be held in the near future. She stated that the Preston Center is an example of youth not only taking ownership of the building, but activities within the building.

The City Manager advised that she has encouraged the Harrison Museum to allow the loaning of some of its art to the City in order to provide exposure to diversity in art and indicated that a special charge by Council to the Roanoke Arts Commission could be to nurture and improve the relationship with the Harrison Museum and the Museum's art collection in order to expose more people to another element of art.

BRIEFINGS:

CITY CODE-BUILDINGS/BUILDING DEPARTMENT: The City Manager introduced Karl S. Cooler, Building Commissioner, for a briefing on certain changes to the Building Code/enforcement, and an update on downtown buildings and certain renovation projects that have proven to be particularly challenging in an older city.

Mr. Cooler presented the following building inspections overview:

- Adoption of the 2003 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code.

Adoption of the 2003 USBC is scheduled for December 1, 2005.

A revision of Chapter 7 of the City Code will be submitted to Council in September 2005, with proper references for adoption at the local level.

The International Existing Building Code (IEBC) is a new code for the international series of codes and will be adopted by the Commonwealth Virginia in 2005. The Code is modeled after the New Jersey Rehab Code which was long held to be the standard to allow older buildings to be much more readily used for modern uses. The 2003 IEBC is an expansion of Chapter 34

of the International Building Code which deals with existing buildings. Its adoption will give developers, design professionals and building departments more tools to analyze existing buildings for alternative compliance to the building code.

- Progress of Rehabilitation of Downtown Structures.

Building shell and systems
Individual upfits for owners and tenants
Colonial Arms, 204 Jefferson Street
City-state Building, 102 Campbell Avenue

- Construction Activity for 2005.

Construction activity is strong for the first half of 2005. It was thought at the beginning of this year that the mild winter was partially responsible, but construction figures have consistently been above last year's numbers by approximately 10-12%.

- Permit Structure - Multiple Versus Combination Permits.

The City has been working with Accela Permits Plus software to make it more flexible and provide the ability to work more closely within the Building Department, with other departments and with outside customers to improve service.

The City has been working with contractors and with the Roanoke Regional Home Builders Association to move toward a combination permit system in lieu of the separate permits which are currently used. All responses to date have been extremely positive. A trial run of the system has been used on the Civic Center Phase II project and reaction by all persons involved has been good. Roanoke County has approved combination permits for residential permits and is expected to follow with commercial permits in the near future.

In the near future, the City Manager will propose the necessary changes to fully implement combination permits.

Revised square foot building costs will closely parallel the method used by the Director of Real Estate Valuation.

No change will be requested in the current permit fee, and the goal is to make the change from multiple permits to combination permits with as little change as possible in the overall fee for a structure.

- Joint meetings with Building Officials from the City of Roanoke, Roanoke County and the City of Salem started in December 2004 and continue to be held.

The following priority tasks were identified:

Standardizing Permit Submission Requirements.
Mutual Aid Agreement.
Standardizing Code Interpretations.
National Accreditation of the Building Departments.
Work with Virginia Tech's Architecture Department to Develop Standard Plans.

- Cross Connection Testing and Certification.

The City's Cross Connection Control Program was implemented on July 1, 2004, as a result of new requirements in the 2000 USBC. Virginia added a requirement to the 2000 International Property Maintenance Code that required annual testing of cross connection devices.

The Western Virginia Water Authority is required by Virginia Health Department regulations to have a cross connection control program in place as a condition of supplying water to a property.

Both the City of Roanoke and Roanoke County have acceptable cross connection control programs in place; the Water Authority's program includes language that recognizes the programs from the two jurisdictions as a basis for compliance with their requirements; should either of the participating jurisdictions fail to maintain an acceptable program, the Water Authority would be required to implement a program of its own in its place.

The Water Authority has stated that it will not supply water to a meter that is connected to a system that requires a cross connection device without an annual test and certification that the device is working properly.

The City of Roanoke's program requires that a \$35 permit be obtained and that the services of a third party certified tester be used for the device; and satisfactory test results are sent to the City upon completion of the annual test and/or repair of the device.

Roanoke County charges a \$30 fee and performs the test with its Utility Department inspectors; they are currently revisiting their requirements since formation of the Western Virginia Water Authority has resulted in elimination of the County's Utility Department.

Mr. Cooler stated that the Colonial Arms Building located at 204 Jefferson Street which is a 12 story building with a basement and is located within a flood zone has been of interest, certain things about the building as a whole make up its safety insofar as building construction, and other systems in the building that relate to safety include the fire suppression system and fire alarm system which must function as a whole in order for any individual to safely occupy the building; individual upfits, whether it be a tenant space or an owner occupied space then come into consideration; it is necessary to ensure that construction of the shell of the building is adequate to protect any occupant in the event that something happens on any floor, and that the building is protected with a fire alarm system or sprinkler system that will give occupants the time they need to exit the building in the event of an emergency. He stated that another issue pertaining to the building is in reference to the flood plain because it is obvious that the building cannot be flood proofed or raised out of the flood plain. In order to accomplish what is believed to be an adequate variance to the flood plain requirements, he advised that the building has been sealed based on calculations where it is believed that water will come in and a pump will be installed with a back up generator that will pump water out faster than it comes in; and this type of system would enable the electrical service and main distribution panels to the building to remain in service in the event of a flood. He advised that certain buildings in Virginia are required to under go professional review design, the City engaged in the services of design professionals to analyze building construction and to identify any issues that do not meet building code requirements which would give the City an opportunity to key in on those issues, rather than to do a full analysis and walk through; and the City of Roanoke cannot make changes at the local level, but does have the authority to grant variances in order to make code requirements work at the local level. He explained that building shell and systems, i.e.: fireproofing and compartmentalization of each floor must be complete and the fire suppression system and fire alarm system must be fully operational before the first units can be occupied in the building, and the building should be operational and ready for occupancy in approximately December 2005.

The City Manager stated that new code requirements will afford the City as opportunity to rehabilitate older buildings within the City of Roanoke, however, certain challenges still exist.

Mr. Cooler advised that the permit process will be quite lengthy as the City moves from nine permits to one; an effort will be made to keep the permit process as simple as possible, with the least amount of monetary impact as possible; the new review system will pull all information together regarding the monetary value of the project under one heading and provide a truer picture of construction and the amount of application.

Council Member Cutler inquired as to whether the City was taking any initiative with respect to “green building” techniques; whereupon, the City Manager responded that she was not aware of any building currently under design; the previous design of the stadium/amphitheatre contained an element that would use water runoff for landscaping; and the City has encouraged Carilion Health Systems to use “green building” techniques on the first building of the Riverside Centre. Mr. Cooler stated that the new Art Museum is considering a system that would use rainwater.

Council Member Dowe advised that a majority of the buildings within the City of Roanoke are older structures, and inquired as to whether there is a way to separate the various buildings into construction percentages; whereupon, Mr. Cooler stated that it would be important to ensure that the City’s records are accurate and the need to coordinate Building Department and Department of Economic Development reporting in order to reach an accurate figure which would involve reaching a balance between an educational department, a service department and an enforcement department. He called attention to efforts to encourage the building departments of the City of Roanoke, Roanoke County and the City of Salem to meet on a quarterly basis to standardize certain submission requirements and interpretations; national certification through ICC is under investigation which will complement police and fire department accreditation procedures, since the Building division is a part of the safety component; and discussions have been held with the Architectural Department at Virginia Tech to develop standardized foundation plans and small building plans to assist builders that do not have that level of expertise.

Mr. Cooler discussed cross connection and back flow prevention measures and advised that there are three avenues of cross connection control and enforcement inspection: building, plumbing and residential codes, which identify requirements of a system at the time of installation. He explained that the General Assembly modified the Property Maintenance Code, which provides that once a cross connection device is installed, the device must be inspected on an annual basis and shown to be operational; another method which is used by Roanoke County involves a cross connection control program that was adopted by ordinance; and Western Virginia Water Authority regulations, as promulgated by the Health Department, require jurisdictions to have a cross connection control program in effect which is incorporated as an integrated package program for submittal to the State; and, if it is deemed that any jurisdiction does not have an acceptable cross connection control program in effect, the locality will be required to implement a program to test and certify cross connection devices.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the City of Roanoke became the “national poster child” when it went through the Autumn Lane termite poisoning case that resulted from a water line break that allowed chemicals to flow into the water line; whereupon, Mr. Cooler stated that the Building Department will identify and review new technologies, make efforts to incorporate appropriate information into the City’s process, and be as flexible as possible.

Council Member Wishneff stated that more complaints were received from citizens regarding the residential fee than installation of the cross connection device.

COMMUNITY PLANNING -CITY MAPPING PROGRAM: The City Manager called attention to efforts by City and School staff to implement a Financial Application and Integration System (FAIS), which will provide a useful service to individual neighborhoods and citizens.

The Director of Finance advised that staff of the Finance Department were also involved with implementation of the system.

Justin Eades, Junior Systems Analyst, Department of Technology, presented an overview of the Community Portal, which is a unique website designed to present various kinds of data at the neighborhood level; data behind the scenes is GIS or geographic based, made to look like a normal website, easy to use, simple to navigate, and not overwhelming for the average user; and the Community Portal was launched last Fall in conjunction with redesign of the City's website.

Tracey Leet, GIS Coordinator, Department of Technology, conducted a walk through of the website, starting at the home page Community Portal. He explained that there are three ways to activate the system: (1) type in a specific address, (2) select a neighborhood; or (3) select a common place in the City of Roanoke. The following was used as an example:

DISCOVER	EXPLORE	LEARN	FIND
The Roanoke	Roanoke	Community	Driving
Valley	Neighborhoods	Information	Directions

WELCOME TO ROANOKE'S COMMUNITY PORTAL WHERE YOU CAN FIND INFORMATION ABOUT ROANOKE'S NEIGHBORHOODS, COMMUNITIES, AND DISCOVER THE SURROUNDING REGION. *Click on one of the photos above to select your starting point.*

Addresses:

Community Portal Address: <http://www.roanokeva.gov/cphome>
City's Website Address: <http://www.roanokeva.gov>
City's Mobile Website Address: <http://mobile.roanokeva.gov>

Mr. Leet explained that the site has two components: a reporting section and a mapping section containing different layers; examples include the education home page, libraries, recreation, parks and youth athletic regions, voting precincts and polling places, and related sites for neighborhood organizations; and the system has the capability of zooming in to provide more detail, including links directly to the real estate site. He added that the E-Government Group is constantly looking

for ideas to improve the site and to add more layers of information; a layer of information regarding leaf collection will be added and removed as needed during the fall season; and a layer of information on trash collection and maps and directions to City parks which can be accessed and printed by keying in a starting position, similar to the way users access "Map Quest" on the Internet, will also be added.

Council Member Dowe commended Department of Technology staff for their innovative and impressive work.

At 10:30 a.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess to be immediately reconvened in Closed Session in the Council's Conference Room, Room 451, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, to be followed by a joint meeting of Council and the City Planning Commission at 12:00 p.m., in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building.

At 12:00 p.m., on July 5, 2005, the Council meeting reconvened in Emergency Operations Center Conference Room, Room 159, the Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., the City of Roanoke, for a joint meeting of Council and the City Planning Commission.

PRESENT: Council Members Brenda L. McDaniel, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, and Mayor C. Nelson Harris--6.

ABSENT: Council Member Brian J. Wishneff -----1.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Gilbert E. Butler, Jr., D. Kent Chrisman, Robert B. Manetta, Paula L. Prince, Henry Scholz, Fredrick M. Williams and Chairman Richard A. Rife -----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

OTHERS PRESENT: R. Brian Townsend, Director, Planning, Building and Development; and Martha P. Franklin, Secretary, City Planning Commission; and Chris Chittum, Senior Planner.

COUNCIL-COMMUNITY PLANNING: The Mayor welcomed Members of the City Planning Commission and Planning Department staff.

COUNCIL-COMMUNITY PLANNING-NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS:

Mr. Townsend presented an annual update on Vision 2001-2020, the City's Comprehensive Plan, and advised that a second report would be shared with the Planning Commission regarding Neighborhood Plan Implementation.

Mr. Chittum highlighted updates to the overall Comprehensive Plan. He stated that almost every action to the Plan has some type of activity geared toward implementation; one of the actions deals with the new Zoning Ordinance; and a number of places are identified in the Comprehensive Plan where changes to the Zoning Ordinance are necessary in order to meet the City's goals.

He further stated that the Plan recommends that a Housing Plan be developed which is in the process of completion by the Planning Department, along with certain other activities, i.e.: Colonial Green, Countryside, and Day Avenue, etc. He indicated that every quadrant of the City will be covered by some type of neighborhood design, and reviewed the following in terms of neighborhood development for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) targeting:

Housing and Neighborhood Construction Development;

Neighborhood Assist Centers: Housing Neighborhood Services and City Libraries. Two libraries have been identified for the project;

Economic Development Activities: Technology businesses in the City;

Establishment of a Brand Identity. A lot of activity in economic development on a neighborhood level with facade grants, particularly businesses located in village centers;

Cultural resources: Greenway development, stormwater and air quality management;

Three new historic districts created on-line within the last five years, with two pending – Gainsboro and Salem Avenue;

Public Safety

First year of geographic policing efforts. Regional cooperation.

All neighborhood plans taken as a whole. Neighborhood plans identify districts on the Zoning Map.

Observation:

Implementation tends to be very high in the neighborhoods. Implementation in active neighborhood groups.

Mr. Chittum stated that following adoption of neighborhood plans, implementation will take place in the second or third year; and one of the most important recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan is to develop neighborhood plans.

Discussion:

Council Member Dowe inquired about a time period with regard to updates to neighborhood plan implementation; whereupon, Mr. Chittum reiterated that the timeframe for implementation is two - three years following adoption of the Plan. Council Member Dowe requested more information on the role of the Department of Planning, Building and Development relative to the Youth Commission Comprehensive Plan.

Council Member Cutler complimented staff on updates to the Neighborhood Plan Implementation Report and the Vision 2001-2020 Implementation Report July 2005; and called attention to the following items:

- Affordable Housing - the Cradle to Cradle Program
- Regional Park Authority
- Expansion of park systems
- Cellphone towers
- Riverkeeper Program
- Ore Branch Project

Upon completion of the Market Study, Council Member Cutler suggested that the City focus on the Greater Henry Street Area Study, water quality, a storm water management authority, i.e.: how to assist the Water Authority with infiltration and inflow, removal of storm water from the sewer system, and creation of a more residential friendly downtown area.

Council Member McDaniel inquired as to whether the City is a part of the Riverkeeper Program; whereupon, Council Member Cutler advised that the program is a private entity and therefore the City cannot participate. He further advised that the entity has considered joining the national corporation to become the official trademark - Riverkeeper 501 (2)(3) and a meeting is scheduled in the near future to discuss the matter.

Mr. Townsend stated that each year, operational departments are contacted with regard to updates to the Comprehensive Plan which reinforces the Plan annually. He further stated that while the Zoning Ordinance is a major part of implementation of the Plan, two-thirds of the Plan is not administered by planners, but departments such as Public Works, Facilities Management, etc. He indicated that the Planning Department has built a stronger staff constituency for the Plan in terms of realization and the importance in urban activities to move the Plan forward. He pointed out that Planning staff will continue to involve other City departments that play a major role in the implementation process.

The City Manager commented that the Plan and the implementation schedule in the annual report were intended to provide a greater sense of direction to City departments with regard to Council's priorities and expectations of individual departments.

Mr. Townsend stated that any additional comments with regard to the documents should be forwarded to the Department of Planning, Building and Development, and the documents will be posted on the City's website for review by citizens.

Mr. Townsend called attention to a public hearing which is scheduled to be held on Thursday, July 28, 2005, at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, by the City Planning Commission with regard to the proposed new Zoning Ordinance. He noted that the first advertisement would be published in *The Roanoke Times* on Tuesday, July 12, 2005, and notices containing a general notification to the public hearing and a descriptive summary of the Zoning Ordinance and zoning districts were mailed to all property owners in the City of Roanoke.

Mr. Townsend stated that following the public hearing, the City Planning Commission will hold weekly work sessions during the month of August to formulate its recommendations to Council; and the Planning Commission anticipates submitting recommendations to Council no later than October 2005.

Council Member Dowe inquired if there is a role that the Council could play in assisting City staff on educating the public with regard to the proposed new Zoning Ordinance; whereupon, Mr. Townsend stressed the importance of strong citizen participation in the process.

(For full text, see Implementation Reports for Vision 2001-2020 Comprehensive Plan and Component Neighborhood Plan on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Mr. Williams distributed a marketing brochure which was prepared for the Williamson Road area.

(See brochure on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor expressed appreciation to Members of the City Planning Commission for their service to the City of Roanoke.

There being no further business, at 12:55 p.m., Chairman Rife declared the meeting of the City Planning Commission adjourned.

At 12:55 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until 2:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber.

(The Council reconvened in Closed Session in Room 159.)

At 2:00 p.m., on Tuesday, July 5, 2005, the Council meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members Brenda L. McDaniel, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----6.

ABSENT: Council Member Brian J. Wishneff-----1.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The invocation was delivered by Mayor Harris.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Harris.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

CITY COUNCIL: Council Member Cutler offered the following resolution establishing a meeting schedule for City Council for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006:

(#37109-070505) A RESOLUTION establishing a meeting schedule for City Council for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2005, and terminating June 30, 2006, and changing the time of commencement of regular meetings to be held on the third Monday in August, 2005, and the third Monday in September, 2005.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 489.)

Council Member Cutler moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37109-070505. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NONE.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion was desired, the item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

MINUTES: Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on Monday, May 16, 2005, were before the body.

(For full text, see Minutes on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and that the minutes be approved as recorded. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

COMMITTEES-WATER RESOURCES: A Resolution adopted by the Western Virginia Water Authority expressing appreciation to George W. Logan for his service as a Director of the Water Authority, was before Council.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that the Resolution be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

CITY PROPERTY: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that pursuant to requirements of the Code of Virginia, the City of Roanoke is required to hold a public hearing on the proposed conveyance of property rights; whereupon, she requested that a public hearing be advertised for Monday, July 18, 2005, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the conveyance of City-owned property to Roanoke Sports Group, LLC.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-PARKS AND RECREATION-COMMITTEES: The following report of qualification was before Council:

Sherley E. Stuart as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, for a term ending March 31, 2008.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that the report of qualification be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS: NONE.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

PURCHASE/SALE OF PROPERTY-FIRE DEPARTMENT: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that construction of three new Fire-EMS stations was proposed under the Strategic Business Plan for the Fire-EMS Department; construction of the new stations will facilitate consolidation of other stations; a site has been identified on Melrose Avenue that is suitable for one of the new stations and the owner has agreed to sell the property for \$332,500.00; and funding to purchase the property was appropriated on June 20, 2005.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to acquire in fee simple a parcel of land identified by Official Tax No. 2322001, following satisfactory environmental site inspection and title examination.

Council Member Cutler offered the following ordinance:

(#37110-070505) AN ORDINANCE providing for the acquisition of certain property needed by the City for the development of a new Fire - EMS station, located on Melrose Avenue, bearing Roanoke City Tax No. 2322001, and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance by title.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 69, Page 490.)

Council Member Cutler moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37110-070505. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel.

Ms. Helen E. Davis, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., expressed concern that no public meetings were held by the City regarding the proposed fire station on Melrose Avenue. She stated that when the City Manager assumed her position in 2000, she met with a group of citizens at First Baptist Church on Wells Avenue and Jefferson Street, at which time citizens expressed concerns with regard to how some black communities have been raped of land for industrial sites, roads, etc., and they were told by the City Manager that such practices would no longer be permitted, instead the Burrell Center has been closed, a methadone clinic has been opened, no play area has been provided for the community, and schools in the neighborhood have been closed. She also expressed concern that with the closing of fire stations, response times could be affected and alluded to the fact that certain decisions by the City could be racially motivated. She asked that Council review the issue of closing fire stations by using critical thinking and require accountability and truth by all persons.

Fire Chief James Grigsby was requested to review the rationale for 14 fire stations; whereupon, he advised that currently the City has 13 fire stations on line; and until four years ago, the City had 14 fire stations until a new fire station at South Peters Creek Road was constructed and the station on Salem Turnpike was closed. He stated that the City of Roanoke consists of approximately 42 square miles and 13 fire stations would cover about 3.2 miles per square mile per station. He advised that under the Fire Department's Business Plan to build three additional new stations and to close aging stations, Roanoke will have a total of 11 stations which will cover 3.8 square miles on an average per station; therefore, the City of Roanoke will be well within the national benchmark as established by the Insurance Service Organization. He stated that Roanoke has stations that were constructed in 1906, 1912, 1926, and in approximately 1928 prior to Peters Creek Road, I-581, Orange Avenue, Second Street Bridge, Fifth Street Bridge, Tenth Street Bridge, etc., aging infrastructure and fire equipment that cannot be navigated into

some of the smaller existing fire stations. He added that citizens are naturally and rightly concerned about response times which is an element of five or six critically important elements in providing life saving services; the preferred response time is within four minutes, 90 per cent of the time which is a standard that is currently met by Roanoke's Fire Department; and a plan has been recommended that will provide response times of four minutes or less, 90 per cent of the time.

Council Member Dowe referred to road improvements and other changes in fire service over the years. He inquired about the types of training enhancements/materials that are considered when constructing today's fire stations.

Chief Grigsby advised that higher quality homes are constructed today due to more stringent building code standards, training of fire suppression staff has improved, fire education programs are offered in the Roanoke City Schools and free smoke detectors are offered to City residents. He stated that fire inspectors in the downtown area, improved building codes, new materials and public education all lead to a more fire safe community which, is evidenced by the fact that during the past three years there have been less than 100 working fires in the City of Roanoke.

Chief Grigsby was requested to address the issue of response times relative to a future increase in the City's housing stock; whereupon, he advised that population density drives the number of calls and some peripheral areas will be underserved by the four minute response time; Old Mountain Road will be the most underserved area, because even with the new fire station, it will take four minutes to reach the bridge at Old Mountain Road; and areas that offer the most concern are Old Mountain Road and some of the southwest and southeastern peripheral areas where the four minute response time is not met. He stated that those areas represent the ten per cent that are allowed by national standards, which is not comforting to those individuals who live in the area; however, new homes are being constructed according to stronger building code standards and very few calls have been received from those areas. He advised that inner City areas where there is a high population density receive outstanding fire response coverage.

Council Member Lea inquired if community meetings were held; whereupon, Chief Grigsby responded that approximately 36 meetings were held throughout the community.

The City Manager expanded on Chief Grigsby's response by advising that several years ago, when the Master Plan for Fire/EMS was first proposed, City Staff conducted a series of meetings. She stated that there has been a general misunderstanding in the community because some individuals thought that the City intended to close fire stations before new fire stations were opened; whereupon, she clarified that it is not intended to close any station until such time

as replacement fire station is operational. She advised that Council previously approved sale of the fire station at the Roanoke Regional Airport and the City has a five year period during which to construct the new fire station; the capital improvement budget does not provide for design or construction of the new facility for several years, but it is an important signal to the community that funds received from the sale of the Airport fire station will be used to purchase the property for both new stations on Williamson Road and the proposed station for the Melrose Avenue area.

Question was raised with regard to the status of jobs within the Fire Department as a result of construction of the new fire stations; whereupon; the City Manager advised that it is planned to consolidate staff, there may be some adjustments in equipment depending on equipment availability over the next several years, and a reallocation of resources to 11 stations as opposed to the current 13 stations.

Question was raised with regard to the assessment of the property located at the corner of Franklin Road and Elm Avenue (704 Franklin Road, S. W.); whereupon, the City Manager advised that the City's assessment was approximately \$65,000.00, and an independent appraisal assessed the property at approximately \$315,000.00, which was reviewed and agreed to by the Director of Real Estate Valuation, as a reasonable price for the property. She stated that when this particular fire station is constructed, additional space will be provided for a Police satellite or substation on a permanent basis and a community meeting room; when the station on Salem Turnpike closed, it allowed the addition of an ambulance to the South Peters Creek station, which improved the response time for medical calls, and the balance of firefighters were assigned to the Clearbrook station in Roanoke County, in order to provide better service to that portion of the southwest section of the City and the Southern Hills area where response times were in the range of six to eight minutes.

Chief Grigsby advised that the Clearbrook Agreement allowed the Southern Hills area and the southern tip of the Route 220 corridor to be served within the four minute response time, as opposed to the previous six to eight minute response time.

There being no further discussion, Ordinance No. 37110-070505 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

TRAFFIC-STATE HIGHWAYS: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Revenue Sharing Program has been available to Virginia counties for many years; funds are matching funds and may be used for transportation maintenance and construction activities; and as part of a new initiative, the Commonwealth of Virginia has made funds available to cities and towns that maintain their road systems and has increased the amount of available funds statewide.

It was further advised that funds are matching funds that must be supplemented by local funds on a one to one basis; the City can receive a maximum of \$1 million from the State which must be matched by \$1 million of local funds; staff has identified three projects for which the funds may be used which include maintenance and rehabilitation of the Walnut Avenue Bridge, improvement of the intersection at Aviation Drive and Towne Square Boulevard, and maintenance of sidewalks, citywide; and the City has identified the following funding sources:

- Walnut Avenue Bridge Improvements - \$325,000.00 from Walnut Avenue Bridge Project, Account No. 008-530-9511.
- Aviation & Towne Square Intersection Improvements - \$250,000.00 from Aviation & Towne Square Boulevard Improvements, Account No. 008-530-9830, and \$200,000.00 from VDOT Highway Projects, Account No. 008-530-9803.
- Sidewalk Maintenance - \$225,000.00 from Sidewalk Maintenance, Account No. 008-530-9793.

The City Manager recommended that Council adopt a resolution supporting the request to participate in the Virginia Department of Transportation Revenue Sharing Program.

Council Member Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#37111-070505) A RESOLUTION supporting the City of Roanoke's participation in the Virginia Department of Transportation's Revenue Sharing Program.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 69, Page 491.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37111-070505. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

BUDGET-ROANOKE PASSENGER STATION RENOVATION PROJECT: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Western Virginia Foundation for the Arts and Sciences (WVFAS) received notification that it would receive additional Transportation Enhancement funds for the Roanoke Passenger Station Renovation Project, in the amount of \$100,000.00, which is in addition to the \$1,098,000.00 in Enhancement funds approved in 2001, 2002 and 2004, bringing the total to \$1,198,000.00; other State-provided funding of \$500,000.00 has been committed to the project which currently totals almost \$3.2 million, considering both State and local funding; the City of Roanoke must enter into separate supplemental agreements with the WVFAS and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) which define the responsibilities of each party; authority for all VDOT agreements for the project was previously authorized by Council action on January 22, 2002 (Resolution No. 35734-012202); authority for all WVFAS agreements for the project was previously provided pursuant to Ordinance No. 36157-121602; the WVFAS would be responsible for the match requirement of \$25,000.00; and it is requested that the \$100,000.00 of Transportation Enhancement funds be appropriated (to be reimbursed by VDOT) to Project Account No. 008-530-9900-9007 for disbursement to the Western Virginia Foundation for the Arts and Sciences.

The City Manager recommended that Council adopt a budget ordinance to increase the revenue estimate in the amount of \$100,000.00 for Transportation Enhancement funds to be provided by VDOT; authorize the Director of Finance to increase the revenue estimate in the amount of \$100,000.00, and appropriate funding in the same amount to the Roanoke Passenger Station Renovation Project, Account No. 008-530-9900-9007, for disbursement to the WVFAS.

Council Member Dowe offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37112-070505) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate TEA-21 Enhancement Grant funding to be provided by VDOT for the Roanoke Passenger Station Renovation Project, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 Capital Projects Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 69, Page 492.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37112-070505. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

BUDGET-CITY INFORMATION SYSTEMS-SCHOOLS: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that in support of Council's objective to improve application integration and efficiencies and the Financial Application Integration project, the City of Roanoke along with the School system, is seeking a replacement for the existing Budget Preparation application; in 2004, a team consisting of representatives from the School system and City departments began the process of identifying a cost-effective solution to meet the needs of both organizations; a Request for Proposal was released in January, 2004 and again in November, 2004; in both cases, following a review of submissions including on-site presentations, the team rejected all bids due to either functional limitations, or costs above the \$500,000.00 budgeted for the project.

It was further advised that during the second RFP review, the Department of Technology (DoT), seeking a viable alternative that meets the functional requirements of the City and the Schools at a reasonable cost, identified a solution that was written "in house" by the IT department of the City of Virginia Beach; the system has previously been sold to other localities in Virginia for a nominal fee; it was viewed by the Budget Preparation System Committee as a viable alternative to the purchase of vendor software; DoT assisted the Budget Preparation System Committee in analyzing the functional capability of the Virginia Beach solution, reviewing an on-line demonstration of the system, determining technical staffing needs, and developing a five-year cost analysis comparison; and based on the findings, it was the recommendation of the Department of Technology and the review team to adopt the Virginia Beach solution.

It was explained that DoT, in partnership with the Department of Management and Budget (DMB) and City School administrative offices, will customize the system to meet the specific budget and performance management needs of both agencies; the new system will greatly enhance the budgetary process by providing an innovative, cost-effective solution to support the growing complexity and diverse operational needs of the City and the Schools while continuing to meet the objective of Council for integration of technology systems; by adopting the Virginia Beach solution, the City and the Schools will avoid expenditure of approximately \$400,000.00 during a five-year period as compared to purchasing a vendor-provided solution; and funds can be redirected to other priority technology projects.

It was noted that the report seeks authorization to add a Programmer/Analyst I position to provide computer support to the School System and DoT; a full time support position is needed to further customize and maintain the new system which cannot be supported with existing staff; cost of the position was included in the five-year cost analysis; following the first year, the position will

support the budget preparation system, as well as provide support to the e-gov team on various projects; and, in the first year, the position will be funded by the Financial Application Integration project, and in subsequent years, the DoT operating budget will fund the position.

The City Manager recommended that Council authorize the addition of a Programmer/Analyst I position in the Department of Technology to provide on-going system support; and adopt a budget ordinance to transfer funds from Account No. 13-430-1602-3028 (Reserve Future Capital Outlay) to the following accounts:

	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Regular Employee Salaries	(13-430-1601-1002)	\$ 37,859.00
City Retirement	(13-430-1601-1105)	4,774.00
ICMA Match	(13-430-1601-1116)	650.00
FICA	(13-430-1601-1120)	2,896.00
Life Insurance	(13-430-1601-1130)	432.00
Total		\$ 46,611.00

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37113-070505) AN ORDINANCE to transfer funding and provide approval of an additional position for computer support for the new Budget Preparation System, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 Department of Technology Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 69, Page 493.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37113-070505. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler.

Upon question, the City Manager explained that approximately \$400,000.00 will be redirected to other aspects of the financial application system; and by purchasing this particular software and certain other minor adjustments and the City saved a considerable amount of funds by purchasing the Virginia Beach solution which was a mutual decision by both the City and the School system.

There being no further discussion, Ordinance No. 37113-070505 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

BUDGET-HUMAN DEVELOPMENT-CITY EMPLOYEES: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Federal Government's Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) project has conducted exhaustive studies of each State's implementation of child welfare programs; reviews assessed seven program outcomes and seven systemic factors in the delivery of child protective services, foster care, adoptions and family preservation services; each state is required to submit a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) to address areas where specific national performance standards were not met; each locality must, in turn, develop its own PIP; Virginia's PIP was approved in 2004, and the State legislature has approved funding for implementation of local plans; the amount allocated by the State to the City of Roanoke is \$195,131.00, which includes the required 20% local match of \$39,026.00 and is intended for the State's fiscal year 2006; PIP funds will be allocated in a separate State budget line for both fiscal year 2006 and fiscal year 2007; and in fiscal year 2008, funds will be included in the City's base allocation, provided that targets established in the local PIP are met.

It was further advised that the City of Roanoke Department of Social Services has submitted its PIP to the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS); the Plan requires much more intensive involvement by foster care staff in the delivery of services; increased collaboration with foster children, birth families and foster families is an essential part of the Plan; the CFSR conducted on a national level has shown that the relationship between social worker visits with these parties has a high correlation with increased well-being of foster children; the Child Welfare League of America and the American Public Human Service Association have documented the need to reduce child welfare caseloads; the recommended caseload size ranges from eight to 12 children; the City averages about 16 foster care cases per social worker when fully staffed at the present staff complement; due to high demands and stress related to the job, the City's foster care social work staff has turned over at an alarming rate during the past 12-18 months, and there have been vacancies on a nearly constant basis; the lack of stability in the City's workforce is contributing to its inability to fully meet the CFSR performance standards; social workers also need strong supervisory support and training in order to effectively meet standards and to advance in their job skills; and present supervisory units have about eight staff (including support staff), however, six staff per unit is the recommended size.

It was explained that the local PIP allocation of \$195,131.00 will fund salaries and benefits for four additional social workers and one social work supervisor; positions will not be filled before August 1, 2005, therefore, salary costs will only accrue for 11 months in fiscal year 2006 which will enable the PIP allocation to cover start up costs for equipment purchases; the hiring of staff will reduce foster care caseloads to an average of about 13 children per social worker; and supervisors will have about seven staff in their units.

The City Manager recommended that Council authorize the Department of Social Services to increase staff complement by four full-time social workers (grade 11) and one full time social work supervisor (grade 13), and adopt an ordinance establishing a revenue estimate in the General Fund in the amount of \$156,105.00, transfer \$39,026.00 from the City Manager Contingency, Account No. 001-300-9410-2199, and appropriate \$195,131.00 for the Department of Social Services, as follows:

001-630-5314-1002	(Regular Employee Salaries)	146,363.00
001-630-5314-1105	(City Retirement)	18,456.00
001-630-5314-1120	(FICA)	12,215.00
001-630-5314-1130	(Life Insurance)	1,820.00
001-630-5314-2020	(Telephone)	2,000.00
001-630-5314-2035	(Expendable Equipment)	11,000.00
001-630-5314-2044	(Training and Development)	3,277.00

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37114-070505) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding for the Department of Social Services and to provide approval of five additional positions for child welfare, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 General Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 69, Page 494.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37114-070505. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:

AUDITS/FINANCIAL REPORTS: The Director of Finance submitted the Financial Report for the month of May 2005.

(For full text, see report on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

There being no questions or comments, without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the Financial Report for the month of May would be received and filed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

COMMITTEES-FLOOD REDUCTION/CONTROL: Council Member Cutler offered the following resolution abolishing the Flood Plain Committee:

(#37115-070505) A RESOLUTION discontinuing and abolishing the Flood Plain Committee which was first appointed by a former Mayor on April 30, 1973, and expressing this Council's appreciation to the members for their services to the City.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 69, Page 495.)

Council Member Cutler moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37115-070505. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

COMMITTEES-CITY COUNCIL-FLOOD REDUCTION/CONTROL: Council Member Cutler commended the work of the City's Flood Plain Committee.

PARKS AND RECREATION-CITY COUNCIL-CITY EMPLOYEES-ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Council Member Cutler advised that the City of Roanoke has officially adopted the banks of the Roanoke River extending through the City of Roanoke as the maintenance responsibility of the City. He called attention to and commended an activity which occurred on Saturday, July 2, 2005, in which volunteers, primarily from the City's Parks and Recreation Department, assisted approximately 40 members of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke in clean up efforts along the Roanoke River from Wasena Park to Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He noted that over six tons of trash were collected, and expressed appreciation to Steven Buschor, City Parks and Recreation Director, his Deputy for Park Maintenance, Gary Hegner, and other City employees who participated in the event.

CITY COUNCIL-RAIL SERVICE: Council Member Cutler expressed appreciation to those persons responsible for the rail solutions initiative to encourage the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Federal Government to support the use of rail freight to supplement traffic on Interstate-81.

PARKS AND RECREATION-ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-CITY COUNCIL: Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick expressed appreciation to the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke for their volunteer efforts to clean up debris along the banks of the Roanoke River on Saturday, July 2, 2005.

PARKS AND RECREATION-ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-CITY COUNCIL-CITY EMPLOYEES: Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick commended City staff for making aesthetic improvements along Wiley Drive through Smith Park and a small portion of the River's Edge Sports Complex, and asked that other areas of the City be addressed in the same manner.

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-CITY COUNCIL-CITY EMPLOYEES-FLOOD REDUCTION/CONTROL: Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick commended City staff for their assistance in connection with rescue efforts and clean up activities as a result of the heavy rainfall that occurred in the City of Roanoke during the week of June 26, 2005, specifically in the Brandon Avenue/Franklin Road area.

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-CITY COUNCIL-YOUTH: Council Member Lea recognized and commended the attendance of several young people who were observing the City Council proceedings.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for response, recommendation or report to Council.

PARKS AND RECREATION-SWIMMING POOLS: Sarah Burns, 1925 Gayle Street, N. W., representing an organization called "Just Mills", requested reinstatement of the park that was previously located across from the Washington Park Swimming Pool.

CITY EMPLOYEES: Angela Norman, 1731 Michael Street, N. W., appeared before Council as a citizen and as President of the Municipal Employees Association. She advised that it has been brought to the attention of the organization that recently a Caucasian employee with a high school diploma was promoted several times to reach the Director's level, earning in excess of over \$80,000.00 a year, while an African-American employee with excellent evaluations, with over 25 years of job experience and the equivalent of two years of college was denied promotional opportunities on four occasions within same department. She stated that employees who may not have a college degree have dedicated many years of service to the City of Roanoke in order to qualify for promotional opportunities; while college degrees are a valuable asset, the City's Affirmative Action Policy clearly states that experience is a valid substitute for education; and qualified senior employees will never be promoted if this policy is not enforced. She advised that local government provides many excellent services for citizens due to the efforts of long term and experienced City employees; "the good ole girl, good ole boy" network is applicable inside municipal government and strongly applicable within the ranks of the City of Roanoke; as a result of deals and decisions that are made behind closed doors, injustice occurs and legal cases

result in misjudgment, regardless of the facts; and multiple violations have been allowed in hiring and promotional practices by Roanoke City government. Therefore, she stated that she has contacted the Department of Labor, the Department of Justice, and the Equal Opportunity Commission to investigate continual cover-ups. She advised that she has been a catalyst in the hiring of many minorities in Roanoke City government; as a result, retaliation is a form of discrimination, but the level of retaliation has not been strong enough to prevent her from holding the City Manager and the City Administration accountable to the City's established policies and procedures. She stated that the citizens of the City of Roanoke entrust the people they hire to do the right thing, but unless someone speaks out against injustice, employees will continue to be victims.

HOUSING/AUTHORITY: Brenda Petty, 1925 Gayle Street, N. W., representing residents of Lincoln Villages, spoke in support of the installation of screen doors on the front of housing units. She called attention to the deteriorating condition of screen doors that were previously installed on back doors.

ARMORY/STADIUM: Jim Fields, 17 Ridgecrest Road, Hardy, Virginia, advised that a previous resolution adopted by the Council states that Victory Stadium was constructed on the condition that the land on which it was built would be used solely for a stadium, armory or for recreational purposes. He pointed out that if Victory Stadium is demolished, the railroad would reclaim the property and donate the land to another party; therefore, he asked that the City of Roanoke uphold the provisions of the agreement and renovate Victory Stadium for use by future generations of Roanokers.

CITY EMPLOYEES-YOUTH: Evelyn D. Bethel, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., advised that the young people in the audience should be encouraged to become a part of the City's Youth Commission. She stated that Ms. Norman spoke on behalf of City employees who are members of the Roanoke City Municipal Employees Association and her concerns should be investigated and resolved. She called attention to other alleged instances of discrimination in hiring practices throughout the Roanoke Valley.

COMPLAINTS-FIRE DEPARTMENT-HOUSING/AUTHORITY-CITY EMPLOYEES: Robert E. Gravely, 727 29th Street N. W., spoke with regard to inadequate response times by Fire/EMS personnel to older homes in the City of Roanoke, many of which have been allowed to deteriorate due to neglect by property owners; the need to update the City's antiquated pay scale; the need to take the necessary actions to prevent flooding throughout the City; the need to take appropriate actions to attract new businesses to the City; the need to increase the income level of the average citizen residing in the City of Roanoke with the ultimate goal of homeownership; and the need to correct discriminatory practices within the City's work force.

COMPLAINTS-FIRE DEPARTMENT-CITY EMPLOYEES: Helen E. Davis, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., requested an organizational chart containing the names and telephone numbers of City department managers and directors. She expressed concern with regard to the closing of fire stations in the predominantly northwest section of the City of Roanoke, and asked that Council use critical thinking and require the truth relative to issues that relate to northwest Roanoke.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE-CITY MARKET-REAL ESTATE VALUATION: Robert E. Craig, 701 12th Street, S. W., expressed concern with regard to the criteria for the comprehensive study of the City Market area and inquired as to costs associated with the study. He stated that placing the Director of Real Estate Valuation under the supervision of the Director of Finance gives the appearance of a conflict of interest.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: NONE.

At 3:30 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess and Council convened in Closed Session in the Council's Conference Room, Room 451, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building.

At 4:25 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, with all Members of the Council in attendance, except Council Member Wishneff, Mayor Harris presiding.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Council Member Dowe moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT: The Mayor advised that the terms of office of I. B. Heineman, Alma L. Lee, and Lylburn D. Moore as members of the Personnel and Employment Practices Commission, expired on June 30, 2005; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the names of Martha P. Franklin, Letitia A. Smith and Curtis E. Mills.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Smith and Mr. Mills were appointed as members of the Personnel and Employment Practices Commission, for terms of three years each ending June 30, 2008, by the following vote:

FOR MS. FRANKLIN, MS. SMITH AND MR. MILLS: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-ROANOKE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP: The Mayor advised that the terms of office of Robin Murphy-Kelso and Carl D. Cooper as members of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates expired on June 30, 2005; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of Robin Murphy-Kelso.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Murphy-Kelso was reappointed as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates for a term ending June 30, 2008, by the following vote:

FOR MS. MURPHY-KELSO: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-HOUSING/AUTHORITY: The Mayor advised that the term of office of Ben J. Fink as a Commissioner of the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority will expire on August 31, 2005; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of Ben J. Fink.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Fink was reappointed as a Commissioner of the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a term ending August 31, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MR. FINK: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE-CITY CLERK-CITY ATTORNEY-CITY MANAGER-CITY EMPLOYEES-MUNICIPAL AUDITOR: Council Member Cutler offered the following ordinance establishing compensation for the City Manager, City Attorney, Director of Finance, Municipal Auditor, and City Clerk for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005:

(#37116-070505) AN ORDINANCE establishing compensation for the City Manager, City Attorney, Director of Finance, Municipal Auditor, and City Clerk for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 69, Page 495.)

Council Member Cutler moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37116-070505. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Mary F. Parker
City Clerk

C. Nelson Harris
Mayor
